

# Familiar Hitchhiker

A family in the East was planning a month's vacation to the West Coast. At the last minute, the father's work responsibilities prevented him from going, but Mom insisted that she was capable of driving and that she and the children would go ahead.

Dad got out the maps and planned the route, and where the family should stop each night.



A couple of weeks later, the father completed his extra work assignments. He decided to surprise the family, so he flew to a West Coast city without calling them. Then he took a taxi out into the country on a highway that, according to his travel plan, the family should be driving on later that day. The taxi driver dropped him off on the side of the road.

The man waited there until he saw the family car coming, and then stuck out his thumb as a hitchhiker. As Mom and the children drove past, they did a double take. One of the kids said, "Hey, wasn't that Dad?"

Mom screeched the car to a stop, backed up to the hitchhiker, and the family had a glad reunion.

Later, when a newspaper reporter asked the man why he would do such a crazy thing, he responded, "After I die, I want my kids to be able to say, 'Dad sure was fun, wasn't he?'"

The father's plan was ingenious, and risky. Many variables could have produced a different outcome.

But it was, indeed, a memorable experience for the family – one to be talked about through several generations.

No one denies that life can be hard, with many setbacks, struggles and difficulties to be encountered. But creating those unexpected, loving and joyful situations bring zest and enthusiasm that bind us and energize us year after year.

And wouldn't it be nice, once we have passed on, to know someone could say, "He (or she) sure was fun, wasn't he?"

– Beecher Hunter